

The slogan for this year's Newark Days is "People, Pride and Progress." Newark Mayor Dave Smith describes this slogan as an accurate representation of the involvement of the city's community. In a recent article in the Tri-City Voice, a local paper serving the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City, the Mayor describes "rampant volunteerism" in the city; everything from Newark Days, a non-profit organization, to feeding the poor through an organization like the Viola Blythe Center or the just concluded Ash Street Park summer program run by Friends of Ash Street Community Enrichment or the League of Volunteers Newark, which provides many services to the city.

During a recent interview in the Tri-City Voice, Mayor Smith proudly stated: the people of Newark always rise to the occasion to give of themselves to the community. This makes it a special place. Why do they do it? It's because they take pride in their community. There is a tremendous community pride in Newark.

From humble beginnings as a total bedroom community, the city developed a long-term vision and a strategic focus to insure its prosperity and economic independence. Thoughtful planning of residential and commercial development, careful renovation, community involvement, as well as the exemplary delivery of services has resulted in the city's fiscal and social wellness.

I join in expressing heartiest congratulations to the city of Newark, its elected leadership, administrators, and residents on the 50th anniversary to Newark's incorporation. I am confident Newark will continue to thrive. Happy birthday and best wishes for continued success.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL WILLIAM L. "SPIDER" NYLAND ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MARINE CORPS AFTER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to General William L. "Spider" Nyland, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. General Nyland has served our great Nation for more than 37 years. The departure of General Nyland marks not only the end of an illustrious career replete with many honors, it also marks the beginning of several initiatives which, by virtue of his strategic vision, dynamic leadership and accomplished diplomatic skills, will ensure that U.S. national strategy is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

General Nyland was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps under the NROTC program upon graduation from the University of New Mexico in 1968. In addition to attaining a M.S. degree from the University of Southern California, his formal military education includes The Basic School (1968), Naval Aviation Flight Training (NFO) (1969), Amphibious Warfare School (1975), Navy Fighter Weapons School (TopGun) (1977),

College of Naval Command and Staff, Naval War College (1981), and Air War College (1988).

After being assigned to VMFA-531, General Nyland was ordered to Vietnam where he flew 122 combat missions with VMFA-314 and VMFA-115. General Nyland's other tours included Instructor RIO, VMFAT-101; Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and Operations Officer, VMFA-115; and Brigade FORSTAT and Electronic Warfare Officer, 1st Marine Brigade. He also served as Operations Officer and Director of Safety and Standardization, VMFA-212; Aviation Safety Officer and Congressional Liaison/Budget Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, DC; and Operations Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-24, 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade. He commanded VMFA-232, the Marine Corps' oldest and most decorated fighter squadron, from July 1985 to July 1987.

General Nyland subsequently served as section chief for the Central Command section, European Command/Central Command Branch, Joint Operations Division, Directorate of Operations (J-3), Joint Staff, Washington, DC. In July 1990, he assumed command of Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG), Pensacola. Following his command of MATSG he assumed duties as Chief of Staff, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing on July 5, 1992, and assumed additional duties as Assistant Wing Commander on November 10, 1992. He was promoted to Brigadier General on September 1, 1994 and was assigned as Assistant Wing Commander, 2nd MAW serving in that billet until December 1, 1995.

He served next on the Joint Staff, J-8, as the Deputy Director for Force Structure and Resources, completing that tour on June 30, 1997. General Nyland was advanced to Major General on July 2, 1997, and assumed duties as the Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He served next as the Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina from July 1998 to June 2000. He was advanced to Lieutenant General on 30 June 2000 and assumed duties as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He next served as the Deputy Commandant for Aviation on 3 August 2001. He was advanced to the grade of General on September 4, 2002 and assumed his current duties shortly thereafter.

General Nyland's personal decorations include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with eight Strike/Flight awards, and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Throughout his career as a United States Marine, General Nyland has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his Marines and members of other services assigned to his numerous joint commands. His powerful leadership inspired the Marines to tremendous success no matter the task, and achieved results which will assure the United States' security in this hemisphere and overseas.

General Nyland concludes his illustrious career as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. In this capacity, he has been the

principal advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on all decisions of major consequence. His extensive and diverse background in operational and joint planning, professional military education and training, and budgetary and programmatic policy issues have been given wide credibility by decision makers in the Department of the Navy, the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the United States Congress.

General Nyland has made a lasting contribution to the capabilities of today's Marine Corps and the future shape of tomorrow's Corps. We are grateful for General Nyland's dedication, sense of duty, advice and counsel. The Marine Corps will miss him, but General Nyland leaves a tremendous legacy for others to follow and emulate. I wish General Nyland and his lovely wife, Brenda, daughters, Brandy and Leslie, and son, Matthew, congratulations and all best wishes as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

IN HONOR OF THE ARC OF
WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Arc of Western Wayne County, MI, which is celebrating 50 years of commitment to reducing the incidence, and limiting the consequences of, mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

In the 1950's there were very few educational, employment or recreational opportunities available for people with mental retardation living in southwestern Wayne County, and families were commonly encouraged to institutionalize their children. Small groups of parents chose to seek alternative solutions for their children and began to band together with a common goal and commitment to promote the general welfare of people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. In 1954 this group of parents founded the Arc of Western Wayne County.

Today, with a membership of 140 families, the Arc of Western Wayne County works to create opportunities for people with disabilities to gain assertiveness and community living skills. The organization and its members help to shape public policy and advocate for people who have traditionally been excluded from society by monitoring, supporting and creating progressive community programs.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the Arc of Western Wayne County has been committed to guaranteeing, for all people with developmental disabilities, the opportunity to choose where they live, learn, work and play. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Arc of Western Wayne County, and the many men and women who contribute their time and energy and make a positive impact on our communities.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of our Nation's veterans, I support the additional \$1.5 billion provided in the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill that addresses the current shortfall in funding for veterans' health care. These funds are urgently needed to care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the heroes from former conflicts who rely upon the VA for their health care. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, currently, there are 24.8 million veterans of the U.S. armed services. They served their country in one of the military branches—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard—or in one of many smaller groups that supported the military services, primarily during World War II.

Approximately 769,000 veterans live in Georgia serving in every major conflict and during peacetime. About a quarter of the nation's population, approximately 70 million people, are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans. The benefits include: medical care, payments to compensate for disabilities suffered during military service, rehabilitation and employment assistance, pensions to low-income disabled veterans, guarantees on loans to help veterans buy homes, financial aid to help them attend school, burial in a national cemetery and special headstones or markers for their gravesites.

Slightly less than half of all Americans who ever served during wartime in our country's history are alive today, and nearly 80 percent of today's veterans served during a war or an official period of conflict. There are widows and children of veterans of the Civil War and the Indian War of the last century who still receive VA benefits. The largest group of veterans fought in World War II. Approximately 550,000 Georgia veterans served during wartime during either World War II, the Korean conflict, during the Vietnam era or during the Gulf War. These veterans deserve our support especially due to the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions that they have made so that peace and freedom could exist around the world.

I also encourage Congress to provide much needed additional funding for veterans' health care in FY 2006 so that the VA's resources are sufficient to meet the increased demand for its services from our Nation's veterans and their families. It is critical that at all times, but particularly during a time of war, the quality of care for veterans must be a clear and unmistakable priority. We must fulfill our commitment to those who helped build America's strength and security. Our veterans should not have to wait any longer for the benefits they deserve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. FALKEL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Highlands Ranch, SSG Christopher M. Falkel. Staff Sergeant Falkel died during combat operations in Deh Afghan, Afghanistan. He was just 22 years old.

Chris was a member of the elite Green Berets, and was affectionately known by his colleagues as "little brother." He was well known by his peers for his principle, toughness, patriotism, love of country and his bravery.

Staff Sergeant Falkel was a 2001 graduate of Thunder Ridge High School in Colorado. He enlisted that October with the goal of serving his country in the Special Forces. After completing courses in Arabic language and survival, evasion, resistance and escape he began Special Forces training in 2002.

Ultimately, Christopher was assigned to the 1st Special Warfare Training group, where he served his country with honor and distinction, earning—among other awards and medals—the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to friends and family of Staff Sergeant Falkel.

Christopher served his country with bravery and distinction, fighting against the forces of tyranny and oppression. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

All Americans owe Christopher and his family a great debt of gratitude. We honor his service and his sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS OF BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEING NAMED SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR TO GENERAL MOTORS FOR THE 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their being named worldwide "Supplier of the Year" to General Motors for the 13th consecutive year.

Of GMs 30,000 suppliers, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems is the only company in North America to achieve this remarkable record, a fact that should make its nearly 800 employees exceedingly proud.

Magee Rieter is the leading supplier of carpets to General Motors in America. The company has been in business in Bloomsburg since 1889 and has been supplying General Motors for more than 90 years, first with hand draped tapestries for Fisher Body carriages and, today, with fully molded carpet floors and integrated acoustical systems.

For more than a century, the company has endured and overcome numerous challenges including floods, fires and the rapidly changing business environment. After World War II, the company received the Army/Navy "E" award for excellence in recognition of its production of high quality materials for the war effort.

Magee Rieter records annual sales in excess of \$175 million and has an annual payroll of more than \$37 million that provides its employees with family sustaining incomes that average about \$39,000 annually. Overall, Magee Rieter is responsible for a \$168 million annual impact to the local economy.

The current employees of Magee Rieter are carrying on traditions of pride and success handed down by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents who worked at this remarkable company.

Under the leadership of president and chief executive officer Mike Katerman, Magee Rieter continues to be a cornerstone of the Bloomsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Magee Rieter for demonstrating superior performance and for serving as a shining example for other businesses to emulate.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the White Lake Township Library, which is celebrating 30 years of service to the White Lake, MI, community.

On April 5, 1975, a resolution was adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Electors of White Lake Township, establishing "a free public library in accordance with Act 164, P.A. 1877." The six-member Provisional Library Board was appointed on May 20, 1975 and the first permanent board was named shortly after. The Library Board is composed of non-partisan elected officials who serve 4-year terms.

Library service was originally provided through a contract with the Waterford Township library. In 1980, White Lake Township's voters provided permanent support for the library by approving a perpetual operating millage of 0.3 mills in property taxes. In 1998, voters approved 0.5 mills for 8 years to add, maintain and improve library service.

The library has been housed in several locations around the township including the White Lake Community Hall and Brooks School. The core of the current building was built in 1984–1985, using local funds and a Library Services and Construction Act grant. The library was extensively remodeled and expanded in 2001 and now contains approximately 10,000 square feet and over 50,000 library items. Use figures have doubled in 5 years as the number of registered borrowers has grown to over 10,000 individuals. Long-range plans call for additional library space and expanded print, electronic and staff resources to meet the information and cultural needs of a rapidly growing township.

Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years the citizens of White Lake Township, MI, have continued